

AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (currently amended) A secure communication system comprising:
a first network having a first security controller and a plurality of first network elements connected to said first security controller;
a second network having a second security controller and a plurality of second network elements connected to said second security controller;
a user requesting secure multimedia services while in the second network, said first network being the user's home network;
said first security controller selecting one of the plurality of first network elements for coupling to the second network; and said second security controller selecting one of the plurality of second network elements for dynamically coupling to the selected one of the plurality of first network elements;
wherein said first and second security controllers pre-negotiate an internet protocol security for the selected ones of the pluralities of first and second network elements, and wherein the first and second security controllers establish security associations for said plurality of first and second network elements and subsequently transmit, respectively, said security associations to said first and second network elements.
2. (original) The secure communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said dynamic coupling between said selected ones of the first and second pluralities of network elements is over an Internet Protocol connection.
3. (cancelled).
4. (cancelled).

5. (cancelled).

6. (original) The secure communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of first network elements includes a plurality of call state control function units.

7. (original) The secure communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of second network elements includes a plurality of call state control function units.

8. (original) The secure communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secure communication system is a 3GPP multimedia communication system.

9. (original) The secure communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secure communication system is a UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunication System).

10. (currently amended) A method for secure communication in a communication system, the communication system including home and visited networks having respective pluralities of first and second network elements and a first and second security controller, the method for secure communication comprising the steps of:

assigning a user to the home network;

negotiating a security association between the selected ones of the pluralities of first and second selected network elements;

negotiating by the home network security associations between each of the plurality of first network elements and a plurality of visited networks, each of the plurality of networks having a plurality of second network elements, wherein said first and second network elements are configured to receive said security associations;

requesting by the user secure multimedia services from the visited network;

selecting by the visited network one of said plurality of second network elements;

selecting by the home network one of the plurality of first network elements in response to the step of requesting by the user;

dynamically coupling the selected ones of the pluralities of first and second network elements to provide secure multimedia services to the user.

11. (cancelled).

12. (cancelled).

13. (original) The method for secure communication as claimed in claim 12, wherein there is further included the step of pooling by the home network each of said plurality of first network elements having a negotiated security association.

14. (original) The method for secure communication as claimed in claim 12, wherein there is further included the step of pooling by each of the plurality of visited networks the plurality of second network elements having a security association.

15. (original) The method for secure communication as claimed in claim 10, wherein the step of dynamically coupling the pluralities of first and second network elements includes the step of dynamically coupling over an internet protocol connection.

16. (original) The method for secure communication as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of dynamically coupling includes the steps of:

selecting by the home network a first network element having a security association with the visited network;

selecting by the visited network a second network element having a security association with the home network; and

coupling the selected ones of the pluralities of first and second network elements.

17. (original) The method for secure communication as claimed in claim 10, wherein there is further included the step of providing a call state control function unit for each of said plurality of first network elements.

18. (original) The method for secure communication as claimed in claim 10, wherein there is further included the step of providing a call state control function unit for each of the plurality of second network elements.

19. (original) The method for secure communication as claimed in claim 10, wherein the communication system comprises a secure 3GPP multimedia communication system.

20. (original) The method for secure communication as claimed in claim 10, wherein the communication system comprises a secure universal mobile telecommunication system.